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Statement on KRL International LLC's support for the presidential campaign of Nana Akufo-Addo (2016) and the Government of Ghana (2017-present)

Washington, D.C., August 26, 2020 | A recent article published anonymously on the website Open Source Investigations (OSI) has deliberately misinterpreted public documents which KRL filed with the U.S. Department of Justice in 2016 and 2017 to imply that public funds were improperly used by the Government of Ghana to support political activities. This was not the case. KRL had separate contracts to work with the campaign and with the government, which were financed separately, as appropriate, and made available under U.S. laws to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Indeed, KRL's relationship with Nana Akufo-Addo dates back to his 2008 campaign. It has been transparent and proper. It is also not uncommon for a Washington-based consultant for a presidential candidate to be engaged separately for the government in the event of a successful campaign. Ghana is not unfamiliar with this.

OSI, which presents itself as an international investigative body, is but a partisan blog established in 2015 to publish largely defamatory content about then-candidate Nana Akufo-Addo. It was re-activated in 2020 for the same mission. During this recent time frame, KRL has been the subject of three attacks. OSI's reports lack authors, attribution, fact checking and credibility. KRL will be filing a formal Legal Complaint against the site once we can determine its ownership, management, and editorial team. None of this information is publicly disclosed. Journalists who cite their content should conduct their due diligence, or they put their own reputations at risk.

Prior to President Akufo-Addo's inauguration on January 7, 2017 KRL had a contract with the 'I Am for Nana Foundation' in support of his campaign, followed by an agreement with the Office of the President-Elect to offer support during the transition period. Several months after President Akufo-Addo took office and established a cabinet, KRL signed its first agreement with the Government of Ghana to provide support to the Ministry of Finance.

Pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA), KRL has always submitted timely and transparent reporting to the U.S. Justice Department on all work with foreign governments and political parties. These reports are submitted twice annually: at the end of August, covering the six-month period of February 1 - July 31, and at the end of February, covering a reporting period from August 1 of the previous year through January 31.

The document which OSI cites as a "contract extension" dated 28 February 2017 is in fact a reporting document submitted to the Department of Justice on that date. This report refers to a "contract extension in this reporting period [August 1, 2016 – January 31, 2017] between KRL International LLC and the Office of the President-elect for Ghana." This extension covered support provided by KRL between the end of the campaign and the president's inauguration.

Other documents filed at this time also refer to the Office of the President-Elect because KRL performed work for this client during the reporting period (August 1, 2016 – January 31, 2017). This documentation does not indicate that KRL performed work for or was paid by “the President-Elect” past the date of President Akufo-Addo’s inauguration; in any event, this agreement would have been null after the inauguration, as the entity of the “Office of the President-Elect” no longer existed.

KRL is proud of its work in support of President Akufo-Addo’s 2016 campaign and its ongoing support to the Ministry of Finance. The firm has continued to engage international stakeholders and media houses on behalf of the Ministry for the past three years, supporting the promotion of initiatives such as One District One Factory (1D1F), Planting for Food and Jobs, Ghana Beyond Aid, and resource mobilization for COVID-19.

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